industry, Government plan to rake in Rs. 800 crore by divesting 51 per cent stake in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI); and

(b) if so, Government action plans and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government have decided to disinvest 51% Government equity out of 80.12% in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. It is pre-mature to give any estimates of realisation from the sale of this equity.

The Expressions of Interest from the interested parties have been received. The Advisors and the Legal Advisors for the transaction have been appointed. The transaction is likely to be completed during the financial year 2002-2003.

Pay scale of pharmacists in Government hospitals / CGHS dispensaries

1491. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmacists employed in Government hospitals/CGHS dispensaries enjoy pay scale which is comparatively less than Pharmacists employed in engineering services/subordinate engineering services;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that Pharmacists who are Diploma Holders have for past few years been demanding a pay scale commensurate with their qualifications and comparable with their counterparts in other services;

(d) the action Government have taken on the demands of the Pharmacists; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per recommendation of the 5th Pay Commission, Pharmacists

possessing qualification of Diploma in Pharmacy have been given the entry scale of Pay of Rs. 4500- 125-7000/- per month. Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has intimated that the pharmacists working at CPWD dispensary at Calcutta have been given the scale of pay of Rs. 4500-125-7000/- which is the same as that for the Pharmacists working in Safdarjang Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and CGHS dispensaries.

(c) to (e) The demand of Pharmacists for grant of the entry Pay Scale of Rs. 5000-8000/- was considered by the National Anomaly Committee. A disagreement was recorded in the meeting of the said Committee held May, 2000. In accordance with the agreed settlement, such cases are decided by Board of Arbitration.

Reluctance in Referring cases to private hospitals

1492. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have authorized several private hospitals and diagnostic centres in Delhi for CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) whether the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi are showing reluctance in referring patients to these hospitals/diagnostic centres;

(c) the norms/guidelines to be followed by the CGHS dispensaries in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the beneficiaries are able to avail of the facilities without any let and hindrance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such report has been received in this regard.

(c) and (d) CGHS beneficiaries have an option of availing specialised treatment/diagnostic tests at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS after obtaining the advice of the specialist of CGHS/Govt. hospital/CMO incharge of CGHS dispensary and getting permission from the concerned office in the